

City Council

Study Session Summary

August 11, 2015
Library Meeting Room, 951 Spruce Street
7:00 PM

The City Council met in a study session at 7:00 p.m. in the 1st Floor Meeting Room at the Louisville Public Library at 951 Spruce Street, Louisville, Colorado. The following persons were present:

City Council Present: Mayor Bob Muckle
Mayor Pro Tem Hank Dalton
Council member Jeff Lipton
Council member Susan Loo

Staff Present: Malcolm Fleming, City Manager
Joe Stevens, Director of Parks and Recreation
Kathy Martin, Recreation Superintendent
Dean Johnson, Parks Superintendent
Ember Brignull, Open Space Manager
Meredyth Muth, Public Relations Manager
Julie Seydel, Recreation Manager
Chris Lichty, City Forester
Dawn Burgess, Executive Assistant to the City Manager

Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board members:
Neal Griggsmiller, Shelly Alm, Beverlee White, Ellen Toon, English Hopkins, Mark Newland

Open Space Advisory Board members:
Helen Moshak, Michael Schantz, Laura Scott Denton, Missy Davis

Call to Order – The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Mayor Muckle

Discussion – Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board

Mark Newland of the Horticulture and Forestry Advisory Board (HFAB) gave a presentation to Council on behalf of HFAB. Mr. Newland began by thanking Council for the Arboretum and new bathroom at the Arboretum.

Mr. Newland read the role of the Board noting they are to review and give comments on landscape projects. HFAB feels they are not getting development plans early enough in the process to offer a timely opinion. They had a conversation with Planning Director Troy Russ to address the issue.

Mr. Newland reviewed events of the past year including Arbor Day tree planting, seed presentation and pruning workshop.

HFAB Discussion topics for this coming year:

- Awareness of Public Landscaped Spaces
- Smart Choices
 - What value do we place on public landscaping? What is the sustainability? What are available resources?
- Weed and pest management plan
 - HFAB will review Louisville pest management to assure best practices.
 - Council member Dalton suggested not hurrying the process and simply adopt what other communities are doing.

Mr. Newland showed photos to voice concerns about public landscaping and showed photos of planting beds and areas in need of attention. HFAB wished to use photos to raise awareness of the importance of design vs. cost to maintain. Mass planting may be a viable solution but may be expensive to maintain.

Questions HFAB posed included: How does City assess current landscape issues? Manpower costs? Audit of current landscape costs? HFAB suggests the City should know costs before approving landscape plans.

HFAB believes it is impossible to keep all city areas looking great with current staffing levels. They encourage Council to increase resources and work with Parks.

Landscape plans are investments and the City is failing to keep those investments viable. Council member Dalton said this is one of the many programs we look at in the budget. Council may need to look at landscape as program area. The issue has been made clear and is valuable.

City Manager Fleming thanked HFAB for the presentation. It was eye opening. This item should be tracked and considered in terms of performance measures. It does raise a question of the best way to landscape in terms of water, eye appeal, conserving resources.

Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens said there are tradeoffs with cost. The irrigation systems in some areas are 30 years old and difficult to maintain.

City Forester Chris Lichty said there are standards but they need to be updated. We need to determine what we want and how much we want to spend then use established guidelines. Council member Lipton said we need to start by determining what do we want, and then build that into the budget. There is a life cycle and needs reinvestment.

Mayor Muckle asked for update on Emerald Ash Borer – Lichty said the range has been expanded. It has not been found in City yet. The City is being vigilant looking for it and is protecting high value trees in City.

Mayor thanked Board.

Discussion – Open Space Advisory Board (OSAB)

Helen Moshak gave a presentation of the highlights of the past year and goals moving forward.

Wayfinding is highest priority and number one CIP request. OSAB started a wayfinding program 2 years ago. #1 priority for citizens for open space was wayfinding. Trail and property symbols messaging shows connections to City. The board is very happy with process and input.

Seasonal Ranger has worked very well. He is focusing on outreach, education, compliance. He has been doing Ranger programs, some enforcement and that piece is continuing to evolve.

Natural Resource Management is top operations goal. Need to have a good plan and keep the system healthy. This encourages biodiversity.

Education Update continue to develop programs based on age group.

Volunteer Update - 72 volunteers this past year

Areas OSAB would like Council's input include is wayfinding a priority of Council, and feedback on ways to support council and staff related to resources out of open space fund.

OSAB held brainstorming sessions this year; they were great. Resource management came the top as a priority. OSAB would like to give its input earlier in the development review referral process with a clear schedule so they can start early enough to provide good information. Would like to partner in improving process.

Legislative issues – trails should be opined on. The board believes trails are within the OSAB mission. Clarification from Director Stevens was helpful (see

memo in packet). They would like the City to start work on extending the parks and open space before it expires.

Council member Dalton said one thing everyone needs to recognize is that we won't acquire much property in the future. We need to recognize that acquired property needs to be maintained. And this discussion needs to be had with public.

OSAB recognizes staff does not have time for resource management and land management. They would like a staff member dedicated to things like land management, controlled burns, massive reseeding projects and be able to provide data about those projects. Need a baseline of the health of our properties and where our return on investment should be.

There have been discussions of the use of Open Space and Parks Tax Fund. The motivation was transparency around the process and being prepared to make top priority acquisitions. OSAB is starting to come around to idea that money should not sit but still want money available for top priority properties. We want to be full partners in multi-jurisdictional property purchases.

Council member Lipton said the wayfinding work OSAB has done has been great. It will take years to implement. On budget issues: the City is trying to recover from 2013 storm issues. We need to rebuild reserves.

Mayor Muckle said he appreciates OSAB's work. He appreciates the yearly discussion and suggests maybe meeting with open space board more than once per year may be useful

Discussion – Recreation/Senior Center Expansion and New Aquatic Center Request for Proposals (RFP) and Public Involvement Plan

Staff present some RFP information for a proposed Recreation Center/Aquatics expansion and the idea of creating a Task Force to work on the process with staff and the consultant.

Mayor Muckle said there appears to be broad support for recreation center/senior center expansion. We need to start seeing what trends are and putting design ideas together. Need to also see costs to upgrade and renovate and upgrade current facility.

Parks and Recreation Director Joe Stevens said staff is asking for a survey as part of the RFP to see what level of support there is in community for construction and upgrade of current facility.

Stevens said we focusing on mostly indoor facilities with the exception of a possible aquatics center. Council member Keany cautions that we look at a base

facility to suit Louisville and not what is the trend of the day. Look at core needs. Council member Lipton said we need flexible multi-use space that will suit the community.

If the multipurpose field is included in the CIP, we will need parking. Keep the focus on Recreation and Senior Center. Address the priority need.

Resident and non-resident use and fees should be considered. 85 – 87% use is resident use.

We need to consider maintenance of new facility.

Mayor Muckle stated that on the pool question, we are looking for ways to improve Memory Square. We need to make clear a primary objective is to keep Memory Square. What are we looking for in terms of scale for aquatics? Council member Dalton said we should stay away from building a big aquatic center to attract people from other areas. We don't have the space for it. Should be scaled for Louisville.

Council member Lipton said there has been some interest in building a high performance training center for the region but we should not take that on. Look for something community based.

Council member Keany said we need a 25m pool for swim meets. Parents would like a play area for toddlers. We should provide somewhere for youth to hang out. Would like larger pool with play features for kids. Perhaps volleyball pits. May want to phase in locker rooms. Keany said he would be disappointed if we scaled it back too much and the needs of the community are not met.

Council member Loo said she is half way between Hank and Jeff.

Public comments:

Shade is important. Safe pool with good lines of sight. Simple design. Have an area for seniors. Need concessions. Need locker rooms. Needs bathrooms and showers.

Chair Pro Tem Dalton recommends having Council member Jeff Lipton be on the proposal review team. Council member Loo recommends two Council members on task force.

City Manager Fleming said the objective was to put a task force together as soon as possible and get the RFP out.

City Manager's Report

In Council email is an email from Economic Director Aaron DeJong. It is a draft Council Communication for Urban Renewal. Please review. We anticipate two meetings on that topic.

If anyone heard from Amy Redfern, please decline meeting.
Concrete work on Via Appia is underway.

Contractor punch list on Dillon. There will be daytime watering on new sod.
One more Street Faire.

The Advanced Agenda was reviewed.

Lease negotiations for Human Movement to use the current City Shops is in progress. The final agreement may include another tenant.

Identification of Future Agenda Items

None

Adjourn – 9:10 pm

Submitted by – Dawn Burgess

August 12, 2015